

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 138758

53

ORIGIN IO-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00 AID-10 SP-02 EB-03

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DRAFTED BY IO/CMD:AYODER:PHB

APPROVED BY IO:RDMOREY

IO/CMD:JWMCDONALD, JR.

IO/SEC:RHENNES

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UN, AID, UNDRO

SUBJECT: UNITED NATIONS DISASTER RELIEF

FOR AMBASSADOR BENNETT

1. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE SECRETARY GENERAL BE MADE AWARE OF OUR CONCERN ABOUT THE UN DISASTER RELIEF COORDINATOR NOT COORDINATING EFFECTIVELY THE PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES AFFECTED BY DISASTERS. WE HAVE EXTENSIVE CONTACTS THROUGH AID'S FOREIGN DISASTER RELIEF COORDINATOR WHO HAS CONSULTED AND COOPERATED WITH UNDRC ON FREQUENT OCCASIONS. UN DISASTER RELIEF OFFICE HAS ACCOMPLISHED MUCH WITH ITS LIMITED RESOURCES, AND WE RELY TO A LARGE EXTENT ON ITS TELEX REPORTS, BUT WE AND OTHER DONORS WOULD BE MATERIALLY BENEFITED IF UNDRO COULD PLAY A STRONGER ROLE, PARTICULARLY DURING THE FIRST HECTIC DAYS FOLLOWING THE OCCURRENCE OF A DISASTER. WHILE WE HAVE NOT

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PAGE 02 STATE 138758

SEEN RELIABLE ESTIMATES OF WASTAGE, MILLIONS OF DOLLARS

MIGHT BE SAVED BY AN EFFECTIVE CLEARING HOUSE OF INFORMATION WHICH COULD PREVENT DUPLICATION AND INCLUDE MAJOR NEEDED ITEMS.

2. UNDRC NOW IS HANDICAPPED BY LIMITED STAFF, BUT WE QUESTION WHETHER HE HAS PRESENTED HIS CASE EFFECTIVELY IN REQUESTING BUDGETARY RESOURCES. WE ALSO BELIEVE HE COULD OPERATE MUCH MORE EFFECTIVELY FROM NEW YORK THAN FROM

GENEVA, BUT HE HAS RESISTED SUCH A MOVE, AND NOW IT MAY BE TOO LATE TO OBTAIN THE SPACE.

3. WE NOTE THAT SIR ROBERT JACKSON HAS PROVIDED FORCEFUL LEADERSHIP IN THE DISASTER FIELD, AND WOULD SUGGEST THAT PERHAPS A WAY COULD BE FOUND TO MOVE HIM INTO THE UNDRC ROLE, PERHAPS FINDING ANOTHER SUITABLE SPOT FOR BERKOL.

4. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WOULD RESPOND TO MORE EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP IN THIS FIELD BY MORE SUPPORT FOR INCREASED UN BUDGET RESOURCES FOR THE UNDRO. MOREOVER, A MORE EFFICIENTLY RUN UNDRO WOULD ATTRACT MORE EMERGENCY RELIEF RESOURCES THROUGH UN RATHER THAN BILATERAL CHANNELS.

5. WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR RAISING THIS WITH WALDHEIM WHEN YOU SEE HIM FRIDAY. SISCO

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Message Attributes

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